



The Bulletin

75th Division (Exercise), Houston, Texas 77054

June 1996

Former 75th Div Soldier, Bob Dole

It was only about three weeks before the war in Europe ended, on May 7, Lt. Bob Dole, of the 10th Mountain Division, had been assigned to lead a platoon in northern Italy two months earlier as a replacement officer for seasoned troops, half of whose lieutenants had been killed.

As part of yet another Allied offensive against the Germans, Dole's platoon was to take Hill 913, near a town northwest of Florence. Less than an hour out, his men were pinned by German machine gun fire. Dole led a squad against the machine gunners. Spotted, he threw a grenade at the Germans and jumped into a shell hole for cover. In the mayhem that followed, his radioman was injured. Dole scrambled from his hole and tried to rescue him from his hole and tried to rescue him when he himself was hit by a shell or bullet, or cannon fire - there was too much flying metal to know. His men grabbed him and dragged him back to his hole.

Two medics tried to reach him, but they were killed in the effort and Dole lay in his blood-soaked uniform for nine hours before being evacuated. He was paralyzed in both arms and both legs, and no one thought he would live.

That same day, 553 men in his division were killed or wounded.

The "instrumentality of war" that broke him," Noel C. Koch, a former Dole speechwriter, wrote in an extensive account of the incident, "had entered his right shoulder, fracturing the clavicle, which is the collarbone, the scapula, which is the upper arm, and penetrated to the fourth cervical vertebra.

The bony top of this vertebra was fractured, and the vertebra tilted out of line, shocking the spinal cord, paralyzing all four extremities, and taking away normal bowel and bladder functions. He nearly died.

During his 39 month convalescence, much of it a body cast, he fought life-threatening fevers, infections, blood clots in his lungs, pneumonia, and at one

point his right kidney was removed. This was his most depressing period.

"To be completely helpless has a marked effect on anyone," Dole told Koch. "I couldn't feed myself for almost a year, or do anything with my hands. There were moments of self pity when I pictured myself going through life disabled, unmarried and selling pencils on street corners."



1Former 75th Division Soldier Bob Dole

3D Battalion/289th Regiment

Since their relocation to Beaumont, TX from Houston, in October 1994 the 3D Battalion/289th Regiment has set the pace for other 75th Division (E) units to follow. The Battalion Commander, LTC Kenneth L. Starr and Battalion CSM Richard G. Peters stand united with the soldiers of the 3D BN to make an impact on Lanes

Training for reserve soldiers.

The battalion has directed one of the largest training mission conducted by the 75th Div. (E) to date' "CALL FORWARD 95" conducted at Ft. Bliss, TX. 8-26 July, 1995. The Battalion has provided quality instructors to teach the Observer/Controller Course conducted at Ft. Polk, LA. They also are providing

Drivers' Training to units within the division as well as to customer units, the HHD 373rd Support BN and the 644th Transportation Company (Med) located in the Beaumont area.

The 3D Battalion has received a Proclamation from Mayor Jerry Moore of Beaumont in February 1995. Congressman David Stockman has also paid a visit to the 3D Battalion.

One of the most innovating areas that the battalion has excelled in is in the area of recruiting. The battalion has ran local television ads in the Beaumont/Port Arthur/ Orange Texas area, and participated in several local community activities, the Port Arthur Mardi Gras Celebration each February. The battalion has grown from approximately 46 soldiers, who made the move to Beaumont in October 1994 to over 125 soldiers today. The battalion is recruiting new soldiers at the rate of six to ten per month.

The battalion sponsors several family events throughout the year including the units Christmas Luncheon/Family Activities and the unit's summer picnic/open house.

MSG Kennison Set To Retire

By CPT Wayne Marotto

HOUSTON- After twenty-six years of faithful service in the United States Army, MSG Eddie Kennison retired in April 1996.

MSG Kennison entered the U.S. Army in April, 1967, in his hometown of Lake Charles, LA. "I got drafted in Lake Charles and I went to basic training and AIT at Fort Polk, LA", explains Kennison. Although not initially drafted into the infantry, MSG Kennison soon found himself with a rifle and 'humpin' a ruck-sack. "They needed more infantry (to go to Vietnam). The Army wanted me to go into OCS. I told them I would go, but then I was told I would have

to go another year in the Army. So, I told them no".

By September, 1967, Kennison found himself in the jungles of South Vietnam. "I was in the 4th Infantry Division, which was Light infantry. I was a rifleman and then did a lot of demolition's", MSG Kennison explains of his tour of duty in the Vietnam War.

Kennison did his part in fighting to stop the spread of communism throughout all of Southeast Asia. His skills as rifleman were so sharp he was recommended to become a sniper. He refused the opportunity, choosing to remain with his platoon.

Although the twilight of the Vietnam War has passed twenty-one years, MSG Kennison reflects on his most vivid memory of Vietnam. A member of his platoon had a foot injury and had fallen far behind the rest of the platoon during a fast march. The thought of his platoon mate being left behind troubled Kennison.

He took it upon himself to "go back [and] put my life on the line to save one of my comrades." Retracing the route, and traveling alone, Kennison found the soldier. "He [the soldier] felt like he was no good to the unit. He wanted to die. I talked to him and told him he was a part of us, or he could stay there and die." Kennison's forthright approach convinced the soldier to catch up with the rest of the platoon.

After his tour of duty in Vietnam ended in September, 1968, Kennison was assigned to Fort Sill, Oklahoma. He was still in the Infantry, and his assignment was to instruct ROTC cadets and OCS recruits in Field Training Exercises. By the end of 1968, Kennison's time in service was up. He decided to get out of the Army. "I went through a war that was pretty rough for my age. I had seen more [in one year] than I had seen growing up." His mother's fear that he would be sent back to Vietnam also influenced him to get out.

Kennison stayed out of the Army for four years. He says that he wanted to get as far away from the Army as possible, and get his life together. However, the calling to military duty was again answered by MSG Kennison, and he joined the Army Reserve, serving as a member of several finance companies. In 1993, Kennison joined the 1st Battalion, 289th REGT of the 75th DIV (E).

Today, after twenty-six years of faithful service, MSG Kennison retires, "I plan to relax and spend time with my family. It's time to move on to other things," explains Kennison. His wife of two years, is expecting their first child this summer. Kennison's son from a previous marriage, Eddie Kennison, erstwhile star wide-receiver of Louisiana State University, is projected as a first round draft pick in the NFL's upcoming draft. MSG Kennison expects to devote a considerable amount of time advising and managing his son's career.

All members of the First Battalion wish the best of luck to MSG Kennison and his family. Valhalla MSG Kennison, valhalla.

NCO of the Year

Sergeant First Class Ronnie Turner has been selected as the 75th Division (Exercise) Noncommissioned Officer of the Year. On Saturday 4 May, MG Roberts, the 75th Division (Exercise) Commander, presented Turner a plaque for his devotion to duty, outstanding leadership and professionalism. SFC Turner is presently assigned to the G3 Current Operations section.

“FAMILY EMPHASIS”

By Chaplain Duncan

When it works, it is one of the greatest organizations around. Yes, the family is an organization. Throughout the ages, the family unit has faced many ups and downs. It still is the foundation stone that binds societies together. The strength of this unit, the family, translates into the strength and stability of the nation. During May and June the family unit is highlighted with special observance days for mothers, fathers, children, and grandparents.

Most family members spend very little time and energy learning how to be a quality family member. One of the keys to an effective family in our culture is the concern of all family members one for another and the desire to learn the role. How does one learn the changing roles in the family unit?

All of the military is acquainted with being MOS qualified. This means the job the person has, he or she has been properly trained to perform. In family life as one goes from baby, child, teen, adult, spouse, parent, and grandparent, you must get the proper training if you want to be qualified. This may be difficult for some of you. Your may think all you have to do is just be. With the complexities of life in the nineties, it is my opinion that one needs all the assistance possible as you deal with family issues.

Think for a moment with me. Where do you spend a great deal of your time, energy, and resources? Where do you experience a significant number of problems? Where do you have some of your greatest positive experience of life? All in the family is the answer. Yet, unless we are forced by circumstances or out of desperation,

do we normally see persons preparing themselves for these significant roles. OJT (on the job training) happens for all of us, but there is a great amount of other assistance and training available for the family member to improve his/her skills.

Take advantage of the many opportunities to prepare yourself for one of your greatest, if not the greatest, roles you will ever have. Learn to be a quality family member at all stages in your life.

Have a great day.

1ST Battalion Completes OC Course

By CPT Wayne Marotto

The First Battalion Conducted a successful OC Course at Fort Polk, Louisiana, from 2 March to 8 March 1996.

In conjunction with Active Component soldiers, members of the First Battalion taught classes which were described by the students and observers as the “utmost professional”. Major Robert De Leon, as the project officer, was instrumental in the success of the course. LTC Melvin Price praised Major De Leon, at the graduation ceremony for a job well done. LTC Price gave the students and the instructors a motivational speech, that none will soon forget, to begin the course. This became the catalyst for the successful completion of the course. Captain Greg Gill, of the first Battalion, said, “The instructors were the utmost professional, and I learned a lot from the classes. The only complaint I had was with the lack of communications, which I attribute to not have a morning and evening formation”.

The highlight of the course was the Lanes Training Exercise (LTX). Captain's O'Grady, Marotto, and Halvorson initiated and constructed a large-scale terrain model of the LTX. This included the four lane sites. Colonel Funkhouser was noticeably impressed as he stated, “this is what it is all about. This is what we train for”. The LTX was conducted during a ‘snow storm’. Yet, the frigid temperatures could not deter the awesome training which was being conducted.

Captain Roberto Sanchez, from the 3rd Battalion, and formerly of the 2-5 CAV and Persian Gulf War veteran, explained “the most beneficial class to me was the commo class. Because, I was weak in it”. CPT Sanchez was a Chemical Officer on Active Duty and said about the OC course. “The whole course was excellent. I have a better overall picture of what a Lane is”.

This course was different from the previous courses the First Battalion had conducted. Whereas, in the past only Reserve Component soldiers taught classes, this course had active duty soldiers teaching many classes. A member of the 4th Brigade, out of Oklahoma City, SGT Tima said, “I can't tell the difference between the Active Duty instructors and the Reserve Component instructors”. Captain Summerlin from the 2nd Battalion was voted the most outstanding student of the course. Sergeant First Class Escalera was voted the most outstanding instructor of the course.

Army comes in First

The First Annual Tri-Service Meet was hosted by the 75th Div. (E) on 26 April. Organizer of this event was SFC Manuel of G3 Operations/Simulation. Athletes from the Army, Navy, and Marine Reserves competed in a variety of sporting events. The pressure was on as soldiers, sailors and marines passed the baton on the four man relay, took each other to the net in volleyball and basketball, then hoofed their way to the finish line during the horseshoe toss.

The Army took first place with a total score of 275 out of a possible 400 points. In second place was the Marines followed closely by the Navy.

After the competition, the three services enjoyed a picnic lunch with food provided free of charge by Miss Mary Denton of Mary D's Catering Service.

Moving on

Colonel Jim Funkhouser will turn over the Command of the 2nd Brigade to Colonel Mel Brewer on June 10th. Col. Funkhouser was selected as the Brigades first commander when it was activated in June 1993. Over the past three years the 2nd Brigade has been involved in numerous activities and training events, including conducting lanes training during the JSC Exercise "Call Forward," a multi-level mobilization exercise conducted at Fort Bliss. Under Funkhouser's leadership the Brigade has grown from its initial strength of 38 to almost 400 and should reach its authorized strength of 644 personnel by the end of TY-97.

The 2nd Brigade has the distinction of being the largest Brigade within the Division as well as having the largest Property Book, in terms of dollar value. The Brigade consists of a Brigade Headquarters, 1/289th commanded by LTC

Family Circle

By Margaret Funhouser

"Uniform Thrift Shop"

The Uniform Thrift Shop is now 5 years old and growing. We are now able to carry some BDU's and hope a larger inventory of military insignia. The Uniform Thrift Shop funds Project Uplift that any 75th soldier can access in time of need. The soldier can contact the Chaplain or the military division of the American Red Cross.

In the past when all the units were drilling on one weekend, staffing the Uniform Thrift Shop was not a problem. Now HHC, 1st Bde & 2nd Bde drill on 3 separate weekends. We would like to see the Thrift Shop open on each Saturday of Drill. If you are interested in helping us staff the Thrift Shop on a Saturday, please call Sandy Blackerby at 367-1615. Come and join the Fun!

Army Family Team Building

By Margaret Funhouser

A small group of Army Family Teambuilding (AFTB) trained volunteers met on March 23rd to discuss implementing a local AFTB program. Those in attendance decided that there is a need for this program in the Houston area. There are regular calls into the unit regarding family issues and our soldiers will be better prepared if their families are better prepared. The purpose of AFTB is to help family members become more independent and self sufficient within the framework of today's military.

The goals of the program are to improve overall readiness of military families, to assist military families in adapting to changes in the military and to provide a program that promotes leadership development. This will be accomplished by teaching and promoting personal self development and family readiness through education.

Currently the group has set up a series of eight classes to be taught throughout the year at the SGM Macario Garcia Army Reserve Center.

The more families we reach the better prepared your soldiers and their families will be as we head toward the 21st century. For additional information contact Mr. Robin Smith at (713) 799-7906.

2Nd Battalion FRG

By Barbara McCrea

Thanks to all of 2nd Battalion's Family Readiness volunteers. We totalled 850 hours for the year, and average 75 hours a month! Thanks to everyone for their support during 1995.

2nd Family Volunteers:

Joy Archuleta	Terri Myers	Evonna Berry	John Negrete
Kathy Black	Kerri Colon	Willie Farrell	Sheena Garrison
Gary Johnson	Brigitte Kock	Barb McCrea	Joan Milton
Andrea Roy	Laurie Scoppa	Kathy Simpson	Reni Stowell
Regina Venne	Neida Villalobos	Sharon Webster	Kim Yarbaraough

Sponsors who donated gifts & Merchandise

Kathy Cheaney	Shell Oil	Ryan-Walsh	Dr. Sharon Garner
Black-Eyed Pea	Jiffy Lube	Windemere Tennis Club	Brown & Root

Soldier Volunteers

CPT Villalobos	SGT Welch	MAJ Archuleta	MAJ Morris
MAJ Morris	SPT White	SPC Escalera	SPC Vaughn
SFC Chackney	Louis DellaFioria	Matt Preble	

The Threat of Computers in Wartime

U.S. officials believe more than 120 governments are developing techniques for crippling enemy defenses by disrupting computers in wartime, senators were told.

Congressional investigators said computer hackers demonstrated the threat by stealing secrets from Air Force air combat laboratory computers two years ago were now trying to get into U.S. military computers about 250,000 times a year.

Jack Brock, a director of the congressional General Accounting Office, told the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations the National Security Agency estimated that more than 120 countries were working on the war techniques. Asked if they were primarily advanced industrial nations, Brock said the NSA knew who they were but the information was classified.

"Terrorists and other adversaries now have the ability to launch untraceable attacks from anywhere in the world. They could infect critical systems with sophisticated computer viruses, potentially causing them to malfunction," he said.

WHITE HOUSE GREETINGS

Want the White House to send a greeting to a special person? It can be done; and it's free! However you must follow specific guidelines when making a request. You can request one of the following : Birth of a baby; Birthday of 80 years or more; Anniversary of 50 years or more; Retirement; Graduation; Bar or Bat Mitzvah.

You only need to write a letter and give the greeting recipients name, address, type of event, and date if known. The letter must also include the requesters name, address and day time phone. You

should mail your request to : White House Greeting Office, Washington, DC 20500-0001; or fax to (202) 395-1232.

Einstein's Office

A sign in Einstein's office at Princeton said: "Not everything that counts can be counted, and not everything that can be counted counts."

In Memory

The 75th Division (Exercise) lost a very good soldier on March 10, 1996. Specialist Debbie Sue Roberts was the youngest of nine children born to Sallie May Kindrick and J.B. Rudd (deceased), on March 3, 1965. She graduated from Galveston Ball High School in 1982.

On August 7, 1988, Debbie enlisted in the United States Army. Her active duty included Fort Jackson, South Carolina, Fort Lee, Virginia, , and the 108th ADA in Germany. Her reserve duty was with the 75th Division (Exercise) located in Houston, Texas. Here she executed her duties as a good soldier until her untimely demise. Debbie was a devoted mother and an asset to everyone she met. We will always miss her warm heart and cheerful smile.

Her funeral was held on Friday March 15, 1996 and conducted by Chaplain Duncan.

Army Family Team Building

The Lighter Side

Murphy's Laws of Combat Operations

- 1 If it's stupid but it works, it isn't stupid.
- 2 Never share a foxhole with anyone braver than yourself
- 3 If at first you don't succeed, call in an airstrike
- 4 If your attack is going really well, it's an ambush
- 5 There is no such thing as an atheist in a foxhole
- 6 The easy way is always mined
- 7 Never draw fire; it irritates everyone around you
- 8 If you are short of everything but the enemy, you are in the combat zone
- 9 If the enemy is within range, so are you
- 10 If you can't remember, the Claymore is pointed towards you
- 11 Mines are equal opportunity weapons.
- 12 B-52's are the ultimate close support weapon
- 13 It's not the one with your name on it; it's the one addressed "to whom it may concern" you've got to think about
- 14 Try to look unimportant; the enemy may be low on ammo and not want to waste a bullet on you.
- 15 Never forget your weapon was made by the lowest bidder

